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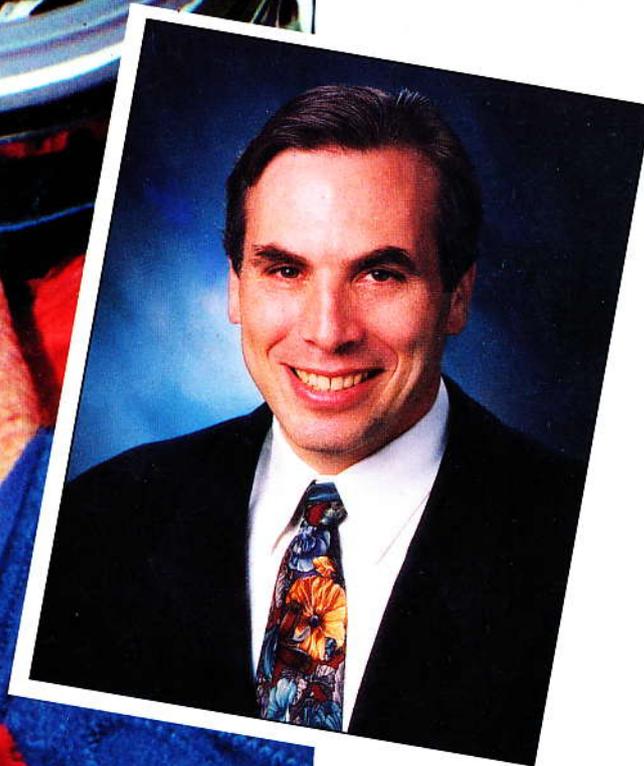
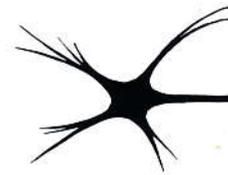
Volume 10 • Number 2

SYNAPSIA

THINKING

BRAIN POWER

THE MIND



GIANT LEAP FOR THE BRAIN

SECOND MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

BRAIN OF THE YEAR

TED HUGHES - AN APPRECIATION

MIND SPORTS SECTION

THE 3rd MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD BIGGER AND BETTER!



**OLYMPIA CONFERENCE CENTRE
LONDON, 21-29 AUGUST 1999**

£100,000 PRIZE FUND

**For MSO I and II over 4,000 participants from 64 separate countries
competed for MSO gold, silver and bronze medals**

Abalone	Go (19x19)	Owari
Backgammon	Go (13x13)	Pentamind
Bridge	Go (9x9)	Poker
Chess	Hexdame	Pub Quiz
Chess Problem Solving	IQ Competition	Puzzle Solving
Chinese Chess (XiangQi)	Japanese Chess	Rummikub
Continuo	(Shogi)	Scrabble
Creative Thinking	Jigsaw Puzzles	Settlers of Catan
Cribbage	Lines of Action (LOA)	Skat (German rules)
Crossword Puzzles	Magic – The Gathering	Speed Reading
Decamentathlon	Mastermind	Stratego
Draughts (8x8)	Memory Skills	(l'Attaque)
Draughts (10x10)	Mental Calculations	Twixt
Entropy	Othello (Reversi)	Zatre

OPEN TO EVERYONE!!

For the first time, titles and ratings are to be gained in all tournaments.

Early indications are that the number of participants at the 3rd Mind Sports Olympiad will show a significant increase on last year and we are pleased to announce that we have decided to move the event to a larger venue.

To enter contact: David Levy
Tel: +44 (0)171 435 9496; Fax: +44 (0)171 435 2870
website: <http://www.mindsports.co.uk/>

SYNAPSIA EDITORIAL

A Feast of Good Things

Among the many exciting articles in this issue we cover the Brain Trust Brain of the Year Event, held at Mosimann's on the 15 January 1999. The joint winners, John Glenn and Michael Gelb, have each demonstrated in their achievements that quality of childlike curiosity which has been the hallmark of great minds through the ages. John Glenn in his childhood dreamt of exploring space, dreams which have persisted through the years – as witness his magnificent return to space last year at the age of 77! The young Michael Gelb became passionately interested in history's great achievers – an interest that has culminated in the writing of his latest, and perhaps greatest, book: *How to think like Leonardo da Vinci*.

We all feel a great sense of sadness and loss at the untimely death of Ted Hughes, a past winner of the Brain of the Year award. We are indeed fortunate in being able to print one of his hitherto unpublished poems, written for the occasion of a Memoriad. The poem was used for a test whereby the contestants had to remember the exact way in which the poem was written, with punctuation marks, spellings, capitalisation marks, etc. We believe however that our readers will appreciate it as a poem in its own right, reflecting as it does Hughes's continuing search for the truth of things... another way of saying 'intellectual curiosity'!

And to further entice and stimulate your own childlike curiosity, we have our regular columns and contributors – the Mind Sports section, and the Mind Map Gallery, which includes the three brilliant winning entries in the Mind Sports Olympiad World Mind Map Championship for Gold, Silver and Bronze – won respectively by Elaine Colliar, Lana Israel and Philip Chambers – congratulations to all three! The 1998 Mind Sports Olympiad is reported on in full, with photographs, results and a report.

As always, we would love to have your feedback on the magazine – all my coordinates are shown at the end of this editorial – so please feel free to get in touch, *Synapsia* is concerned with how we use our brains, about the potential that each

and everyone of us has, and how we learn to learn. Learning, as most of us know, continues for the duration of our lives and it is the purpose of *Synapsia* to facilitate that process to the best of the editorial team's ability.

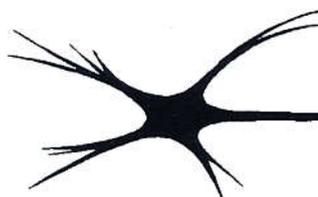
I would be very glad to receive your comments on this issue – your feedback is vital! In our next issue I would like to expand the letters page, so please write, ring, fax or e-mail me.

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THE BRAIN CLUB CHARTER

The Brain Club was incorporated on 15 May 1989. Its official charter states the Club's formal purposes:

- A. To promote research into the study of thought processes, and into the investigation of the mechanics of thinking as manifested in learning, understanding, communication, problem-solving, creativity and decision-making.
- B. To disseminate the results of such research and study.
- C. To promote generally education and training in cognitive processes and techniques.
- D. To develop and exploit new techniques in cognitive processes.



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Pécub, the world's fastest brain cartoonist, is happy to provide cartoons based on your ideas and requests. All cartoons are by Pécub unless otherwise indicated.

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The annual Brain of the Year award proved to be as difficult a decision as ever. Chess Grandmaster Jonathan Tisdall reports on a close decision.

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MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD 1998

The second annual Mind Sports Olympiad took place in London at the Novotel Hotel, Hammersmith on August 24-30 last year. Raymond Keene and Chris Dickson report.

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SYNAPTIC FLASHES

Latest Brain News

A Bridge too far?

Bridge players will be relieved to know that, although computers can perform to the very highest standards at chess, they are yet to achieve quite the same level at bridge. Whereas chess lends itself perfectly to the kind of analytical techniques at which computers excel, they are as yet unable to master the inference and judgmental skills necessary at the highest level in bridge.

Recently the top bridge-playing computer, Goren-in-a-Box, competed in the World Championships in Lille and achieved a creditable 12th place overall. Although the computer performed excellently in the latter stages of the set plays, where its analytical skills come to the fore, in the early stages its lack of experience and intuition meant that it was unable to 'second guess' the best way to play. Bridge has two main elements that make it very difficult for a computer to master.

First, whereas chess always starts from the same position with all the pieces on display, in bridge the hand always starts from a different starting position with the player only having knowledge of his or her own and the 'dummy'. Top bridge players have a highly developed insight into the game that enables them to make informed decisions about what cards each of the other players are holding and how each play will run. At the moment computers do not have similar skills.

Second, bridge relies partly on communication between two partners; computers have problems understanding what their partners are trying to tell them, and run into problems of interpretation if their partner makes a less than 'perfect' bid, which is inevitable when playing humans.

Science Book Award

The shortlist for the prestigious Rhône-Poulenc prize has just been announced. Six titles covering a broad range of scientific subjects are still in the running from an original list of 90 nominations. The favourite for the £10,000 prize is Stephen

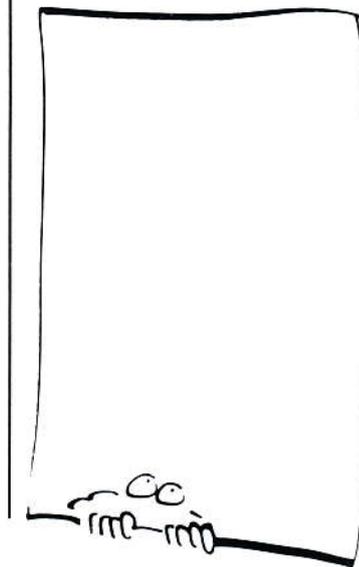
Pinker's *How the Mind works* which is described by Robert Matthews as like 'spending an evening listening to a brilliant friend recount a stream of fascinating stories.' Pinker's earlier work *The Language Instinct* narrowly missed out on winning the 1995 prize.

Other titles on the shortlist include *Mapping the Mind* by Rita Carter showing you just what goes on inside your head, *One Renegade Cell* by Robert Weinberg which delves in to the origins of cancer, *Consilience – The Unity of Knowledge* by Edward O. Wilson which attempts to bridge the gaps between different scientific disciplines to form a coherent whole, *The Man who loved only Numbers* by Paul Hoffman the biography of Paul Erdos, one of the greatest – and most eccentric – mathematicians of the 20th century and finally Sylvia Nasar's *A Beautiful Mind* which tells the story of John Nash who recovered from schizophrenia to win the 1994 Nobel Prize for Economics.

Cracking the Code

Regular readers will be well aware that *The Times*' crossword competition is now a regular feature of the Mind Sports Olympiad. But did you know that over 50 years ago there was a crossword competition with a difference? The challenge was to complete *The Daily Telegraph* crossword puzzle in less than 12 minutes. Twenty-five entries were taken and the competitors were asked to report to *The Daily Telegraph* offices one Saturday in January 1942.

Unfortunately, the first player complete the puzzle, Vere Chance, who took only six minutes, was disqualified for spelling a word wrong. However, four of the other entrants did manage to complete the puzzle in less than 12 minutes and they, along with one or two of the other participants who came close were later interviewed by M18. Those that were successful in the interview were then recruited by the Armed Forces to work at Bletchley Park to crack wartime codes.



BRAIN OF THE YEAR AWARD 1999

The annual Brain of the Year award proved to be as difficult a decision as ever. Chess Grandmaster Jonathan Tisdall reports.



Right: Astronaut John Glenn – joint winner of the Brain of the Year award 1999.

Opposite above: Brain of the Year trophies.

Opposite below: Renaissance man Michael Gelb – joint winner of the Brain of the Year award 1999.



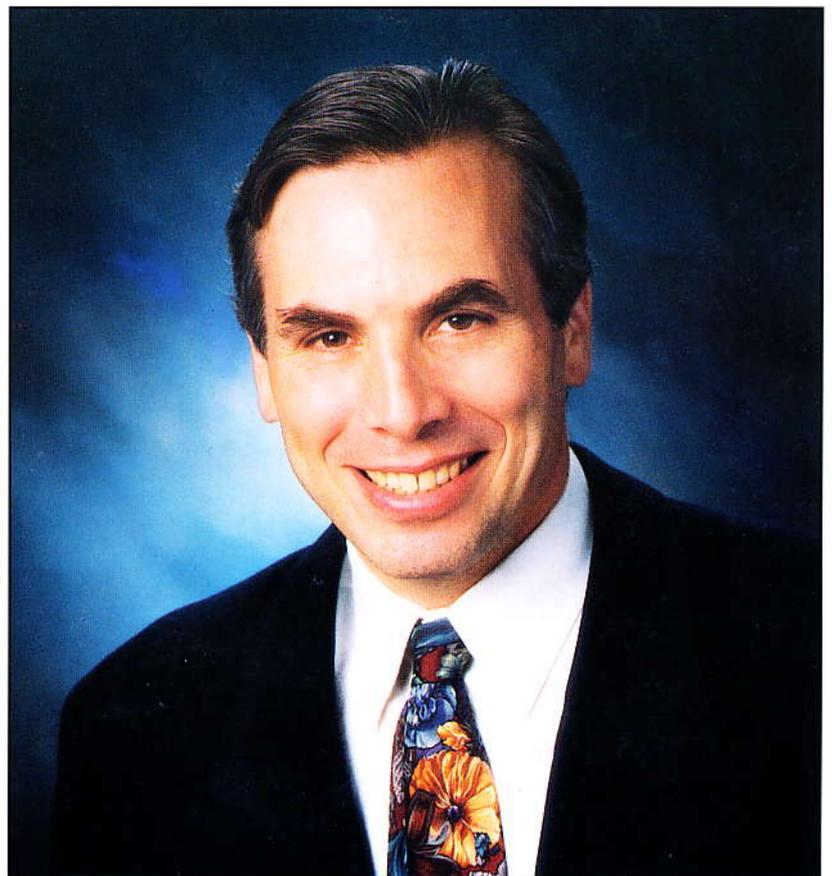
New Record Prize

Thanks to Swedish sponsors BURE, the 1999 Brain of the Year Award enjoyed unprecedented prestige, and can prepare millennium celebrations with optimism. BURE, an international growth and knowledge-based company, funded a generous £20,000 prize, gilding the annual honour. In the words of the *Independent's* Creativity columnist Bruce Birchall: 'The Brain of the Year Award has now established itself amongst the premier prizes available in this country for intellectual achievement, on a par with the Booker, the Turner and the Whitbread.'

BURE is active in education, health care, management training, information technology and infomedia, areas that link up well with the Brain Trust charity's mandate to support brain research and popularise the quest for intellectual excellence. With BURE's support, this project took a giant step towards public prominence.

What counts most?

The choice of a winner was more difficult than ever before. The demanding list of



criteria introduced a range of concerns for the Trust jury. Which criteria should carry the most weight? Would it be possible to ignore the temptation of naming a media-friendly winner? Who exactly would the most media-friendly winner be, anyway?

Tony Buzan and Vanda North, Co-Chairs of the Brain Trust Charity, supported by their Committee, including Raymond Keene OBE and Lady Mary Tovey, would have to juggle these considerations. The first task was to whittle down the contenders from a preliminary cut of 21.

Academics, Authors and Astronomy

The difficulty facing the Trust quickly becomes clear when examining the blend of worthy names and demanding conditions. There are heavyweights from several fields – sport, cinema, business and

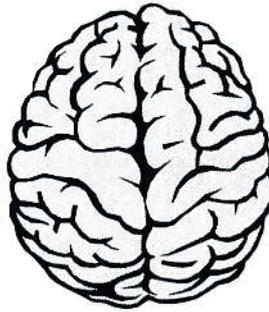
politics. Also Mind Sportsmen and women, including reigning World Memory Champion Andi Bell, who shattered the records of former Brain of the Year winner Dominic O'Brien. Awesome academics adorn the list, and many who combine several talents.

Susan Greenfield's combination of best-selling books and barrier-breaking career milestones demand recognition. My personal bet for a top finalist was Andrew Wiles, for his cracking of Fermat's classic conundrum. I discovered that Demis Hassabis shared this hunch during a conversation where, much to his surprise, Demis learned that he himself had gone forward to the final six instead!

In the end, the shortlist became evenly divided by gender, something which sparked speculation that the 1999 winner would be a woman. Perhaps the late-comer, 11-year-old Jessie Gilbert, certain to wow the media?

BRAIN OF THE YEAR 1999

To recognise superlative mental achievement each year, Tony Buzan and Vanda North, Co-Chairs of the Brain Trust Charity, supported by their Committee which includes Raymond Keene OBE, Sir Brian Tovey and Lady Mary Tovey, inaugurated the Brain of the Year Award in 1991. To qualify for consideration for this prestigious award, individuals must meet the following criteria:



- 1) The candidates must be pre-eminent in their chosen field.
- 2) The candidates must have made a major new contribution to their field in the preceding year.
- 3) The candidates must have contributed major new creative developments to their field of endeavour.
- 4) The candidates must have made a notable effort to educate others in their chosen discipline.
- 5) The candidates must have integrated the principle of *Mens sana in corpore sano* (a healthy mind in a healthy body) in their lives.
- 6) The candidates must have exhibited persistence and stamina over time.
- 7) The candidates must have demonstrated a general cultural awareness.
- 8) The candidates must have demonstrably contributed to society.
- 9) The candidates must have demonstrated a concern for humanity.
- 10) The candidates must be active and known on a global level.
- 11) The candidates must be outstanding role models for those in their fields and for youth in general.

Synchronicity and Surprises

On Friday, January 15th, the awards ceremony took place at Mosimann's, the top London club and restaurant, a suitably elegant setting for the champagne reception and dinner to follow. Former winners Dominic O'Brien, Lana Israel and Leif Edvinsson were present, along with reporters representing many countries including Sweden and the Ukraine.

Roger Holtback, Managing Director and CEO of BURE, presented the prizes and a blue crystal trophy designed by noted Swedish artist Bertil Vallien. Holtback's statement: 'BURE, with its interest in health and education, and with 1999 declared the Year of the Brain by the Queen of Sweden, is delighted to be associated with this initiative,' reflected a finely timed coincidence from the sponsor's homeland.

Mens Sana in Corpore Sano

When the envelope was opened, the Brain of the Year Award 1999 went to two Americans: John Glenn and Michael Gelb. The days of debate and discussion had resulted in a brave decision. The aspect of *corpore sano* had emerged as a decisive factor, and courting the local media had not. Karen Morrissey, acting cultural attaché for the US Embassy in London, accepted on behalf of Senator Glenn, and modern Renaissance Man Michael Gelb, who has just published his definitive work on Leonardo da Vinci, made a series of speeches in which he stressed the

global importance of intelligence and this award's role in promoting it.

Surprise Award

The event's youngest nominee was responsible for a surprise coup. Besides being the local darling, Jessie Gilbert's confidence and poise completely charmed BURE, and Roger Holtback announced an impromptu prize in the course of the awards dinner. BURE donated a trip for two to New York and a training course with a Grandmaster to the Croydon schoolgirl. The training Grandmaster will be selected by *The Times* Chess Correspondent Raymond Keene. Jessica mentioned three personal ambitions: to become a Chess Grandmaster, to become world champion, and to meet John Glenn! A trip to the US can set the stage for all three.

Contenders for the Crown

Here are brief profiles of the leading contenders for the award.

Andi Bell (UK)

After years of perseverance, eventually became the World Memory Champion at the Mind Sports Olympiad 1998. He broke the world record for the memorisation of a pack of cards, memorising an entire pack perfectly in under 34 seconds in competition!

Gunter Carsten (Germany)

Gunter is a Doctor of Chemistry and Philosophy. He won the 1998 German Memory Championships. Responsible for major educational initiatives with German schoolchildren. He is an athlete and yoga teacher.

William (Bill) Gates (USA)

Bill Gates is the Founder and Chairman of Microsoft which designs the software running on the majority of the world's personal computers. His business made him, at the age of 36, America's youngest billionaire, and one of the world's wealthiest men. Gates' motto is 'I can do anything I put my mind to' and he is well known for encouraging greater intellectual achievement and awareness within his company. He is also noted for a prodigious memory as well as astounding energy and stamina.

Michael J Gelb (USA)

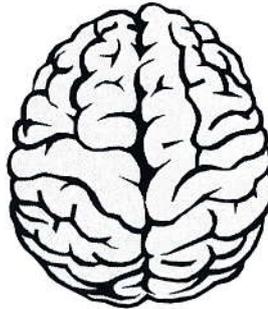
Michael Gelb is a 3rd Dan black belt and teacher of the Japanese Martial Art of

Aikido as well as being a best-selling author of books on the body, the brain and thinking. These include *Body Learning*, *Thinking for a Change*, which originated the concept of Synvergent Thinking, and *Samurai Chess*. His latest book, *How to think like Leonardo da Vinci*, is a new world-wide best-seller, having risen to No 1 on amazon.com. Gelb is also a master juggler, using juggling as a metaphor for the complex branches of thinking required to thrive in the modern corporate environment. He is a TV Brain Star and top psycho-physical coach to Chief Executive Officers in the USA. Michael once juggled, with the Rolling Stones, on stage in front of an audience numbering 25,000!

Jessie Gilbert (UK)

Jessie Gilbert, 11, has become the youngest ever winner of an adult world title.

BRAIN OF THE YEAR: ROLL OF HONOUR



- 1991 **Garry Kasparov** (Russia), World Chess Champion – highest rated player of all time, linguist, athlete and campaigner for improved global education.
- 1992 **Gene Roddenberry** (USA), Engineer, Philanthropist, the originator of and mastermind behind *Star Trek*.
- 1993 **Professor Stephen Hawking** (UK), Astro Physicist extraordinaire and holder of Sir Isaac Newton's Professorship at Cambridge.
- 1994 Joint Award: **Dominic O'Brien** (UK), five times World Memory Champion and **Lana Israel** (US/South Africa), Rhodes Scholar, teenage polymath and world promoter of the ideal of Mental Literacy.
- 1995 **Dr Marion Tinsley** (USA), legendary Mind Sports Champion, and the only human ever to win an official World Championship against a computer, when he defeated the awesome draughts-playing computer, Chinook.
- 1996 **Ted Hughes OM** (UK), Poet Laureate until his death in 1998.
- 1997 **Steven Redgrave CBE** (UK), four times Olympic Gold Medallist in rowing, proponent and living example of the belief that brain power can be the determinant for success in an ostensibly physical activity.
- 1998 **Leif Edvinsson** (Sweden), Educator and author of the book *Intellectual Capital* which has revolutionised conventional thinking about company balance sheets over the past two years.

The Croydon High girl won the Women's World Amateur Chess Championship at Hastings, finishing Jan 7, against opposition from 13 countries. This is the culmination of her intensive training over the previous year.

John Glenn (USA)

In 1998, after having been one of the first astronauts in space at the age of 42, became the world's oldest astronaut at the age of 77. He is a senior and respected US Senator, an athlete and fighter pilot. Because of his 'perfect' character, he was the basis of the film *The Right Stuff*.

Jane Goodall (UK)

Jane Goodall is a world renowned expert on the behaviour of chimpanzees, having studied them for more than 35 years. She is the author of numerous award-winning books on the subject and her career has inspired many people to follow in her footsteps. She has received honorary degrees and awards from numerous universities and colleges around the world including Cambridge University, the National Geographic Society and the Encyclopaedia Britannica Award for excellence in the dissemination of learning for the benefit of mankind.

Unlucky Candidates:

Right: FIDE (World Chess Federation) world chess champion, Anatoly Karpov.
Below: Bill Gates, whose company, Microsoft, supplies software for the vast majority of the world's computers.

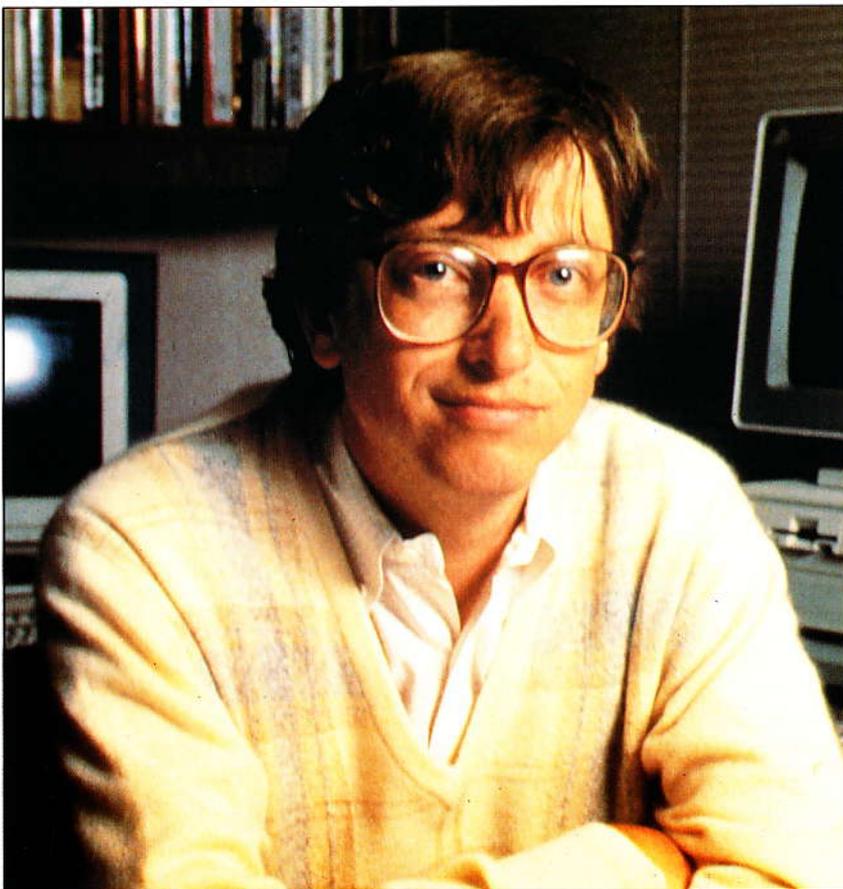


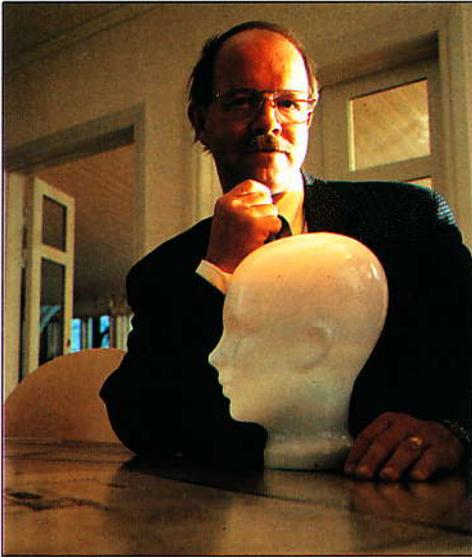
Dr Susan Greenfield (UK)

Professor of Pharmacology at Oxford University, where she is a Fellow and Tutor in Medicine at Lincoln College, and Professor of Physic at Gresham College, London. In 1994 she gave, on BBC television, the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures on 'The Brain', the first woman to deliver these lectures since they began in 1826. She has now been made Director of the Royal Institution, the first woman ever to hold this prestigious post in the Institution's 200-year history. Her book, *The Human Brain, a Guided Tour*, published in 1997, has become a best-seller.

Professor G Guttman (Austria)

Professor Guttman is only the third person this century to hold the Chair of Psychology at Vienna University. His pioneering work in the measurement of brainwaves is breaking new ground in both the business and sports worlds through his evaluations of activated and relaxed mental states in relation to achievement. His revolutionary work on the psychology of champions is based on converting 'training champions' into 'real





Vaclav Havel (Czech Republic)

Czech political leader responsible for the Velvet Revolution against communism. Major playwright and an international campaigner for world peace.

Anatoly Karpov (Russia)

Anatoly Karpov was World Chess Champion between 1975 and 1985. Although he has had to be content with the status of world number two since being defeated by Garry Kasparov in 1985, he has consistently performed brilliantly in tournament play and has managed to sustain the number two position in the face of great strides by the younger generation. Furthermore, following the split in the chess world, he regained the FIDE (World Chess Federation) Championship title, by defeating Jan Timman of the Netherlands. In 1996 he convincingly defended his title against the young American Gata Kamsky, while he repeated that feat in 1998 against the Indian Viswanathan Anand.

champions'. Major force behind the successful campaign to have Austria's government proclaim 1999 'The Year of the Brain'.

Demis Hassabis (UK)

Emerging Brain Star, cited in *The Times* as a young business genius. Top medal winner in the 1998 Mind Sports Olympiad. His company is primarily devoted to the development of massively successful computer games.

Akira Kurosawa (Japan)

Akira Kurosawa died during 1998. He was the director primarily responsible for the portrayal of the Samurai in Japanese cinematography in films such as *The Seven Samurai*, *Yojimbo*, *Sanjuro*, *Rashoman* and

Previous winners of the Brain of the Year award:

Left: Leif Edvinsson – Champion of the idea of Intellectual Capital.

Below: Steven Redgrave – Four time Olympic Gold Medallist.



The Hidden Fortress. George Lucas has acknowledged the last-named film as a major inspiration for his *Star Wars* series. Kurosawa also made a speciality of transferring Shakespearean themes to Japanese cinema in films such as *Throne of Blood* (*Macbeth*) and *Ran* (*King Lear*).

Lee Kwan Yu (Singapore)

A one-time Cambridge graduate in Law, in 1964 he led the island-state into the uncharted waters of total independence. Since then, has made Singapore a byword for enterprise, efficiency and social harmony, and an economic and political force to be reckoned with throughout South-East Asia and beyond. The mover behind Singapore's slogan of 'Thinking Schools – Learning Society – Intelligent Island'.

Mark McGwire (USA)

Broke the 'immortal record' of Babe Ruth's 60 home runs in a baseball season, scoring an astonishing 70 home runs in the 1997/98 season. Acclaimed throughout his assault on the title for his extraordinary mental powers, especially concentration, creativity, persistence and communication with his fans.

Sir Simon Rattle (UK)

He was the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's principal conductor for nineteen years, during which period he led the orchestra to the very peak of its international reputation. He has started global initiatives for schools to bring creativity and music back into the curriculum.

Aung San Suu Kyi (Burma)

Aung San Suu Kyi, awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1991 when still under house arrest, has come to be seen as a symbol of heroic and peaceful resistance in the face of oppression. Her National League for Democracy won the Burmese national elections with an 82% majority in 1990, but the military regime refused to surrender power. Aung San Suu Kyi, notwithstanding six years of house arrest and continuing restrictions on her freedom to move and to speak, continues her peaceful struggle to win democratic freedoms for her country.

Steven Spielberg (USA)

Spielberg is the most successful film producer of the last ten years and is noted for his creativity and originality. He is also renowned for his intellectual ability and indefatigability. His *Jurassic Park* made

brilliant use of new special effects technology and was one of the biggest-grossing films of all time. His most recent film, the highly acclaimed *Saving Private Ryan*, was widely hailed as the first Hollywood film to show war as it really is.

Dr Sue Whiting (UK)

Dr Whiting, five-times Ladies World Memory Champion, Grandmaster of Memory, formerly an Astro Physicist, a qualified Chartered Accountant and Member of the Institute. She has demonstrated her immense ability and determination in achieving her Grandmaster of Memory title after giving up her career in the City in order to raise her two young children. She is a great believer in *mens sana in corpore sano* and holds to the view that age is no barrier to mental ability.

Lord Robert Winston (UK)

Lord Winston launched the groundbreaking television series for BBC about the mind and body. He is Professor of Fertility Studies, University of London, at the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Hammersmith Hospital. He is a Mind Sports aficionado and a world authority on the brain and education.

Andrew Wiles (UK)

'I have discovered a truly marvellous proof, which this margin is too narrow to contain.' With this tantalising note (possibly the most famous marginal note ever written), the 17th century French mathematician Pierre de Fermat threw down a challenge for future generations. Although extremely simple to state, the problem defeated the finest mathematical minds for the next 350 years.

Andrew Wiles had dreamed of proving the theorem ever since he first read about it in his local library. While the hopes of others had been dashed, his dream was destined to come true. Wiles devoted his attention to the problem for seven years, during which time he experienced both huge frustration and exhilarating breakthroughs. In 1993 he announced his proof to the world, but rigorous examination exposed a fatal flaw in his reasoning. Undeterred, he resumed work and finally, in 1995, he cornered his prey. This time there was no flaw. Wiles's proof – which, *en passant*, opened up many new areas for mathematical research – must surely rank as one of the great intellectual achievements of the 20th century.

Acceptance of the 1999 Brain of the Year Award on behalf of Sen. John Herschel Glenn, Jr.

By Karen Morrissey, Acting cultural attaché for the U.S. Embassy in London

As an American, it is indeed an honour to accept this award on behalf of Sen. John Herschel Glenn, Jr., who is truly an American hero and legend.

A senator from the state of Ohio for an unprecedented four consecutive terms, John Glenn is considered one of the Senate's leading experts on technical and scientific matters, and is widely respected for his work to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. John Glenn was also a highly decorated Marine who flew 149 combat missions during World War II and the Korean War. In 1957, he set a transcontinental speed record from Los Angeles to New York, spanning the country in 3 hours and 23 minutes. This was the first transcontinental flight to average supersonic speed.

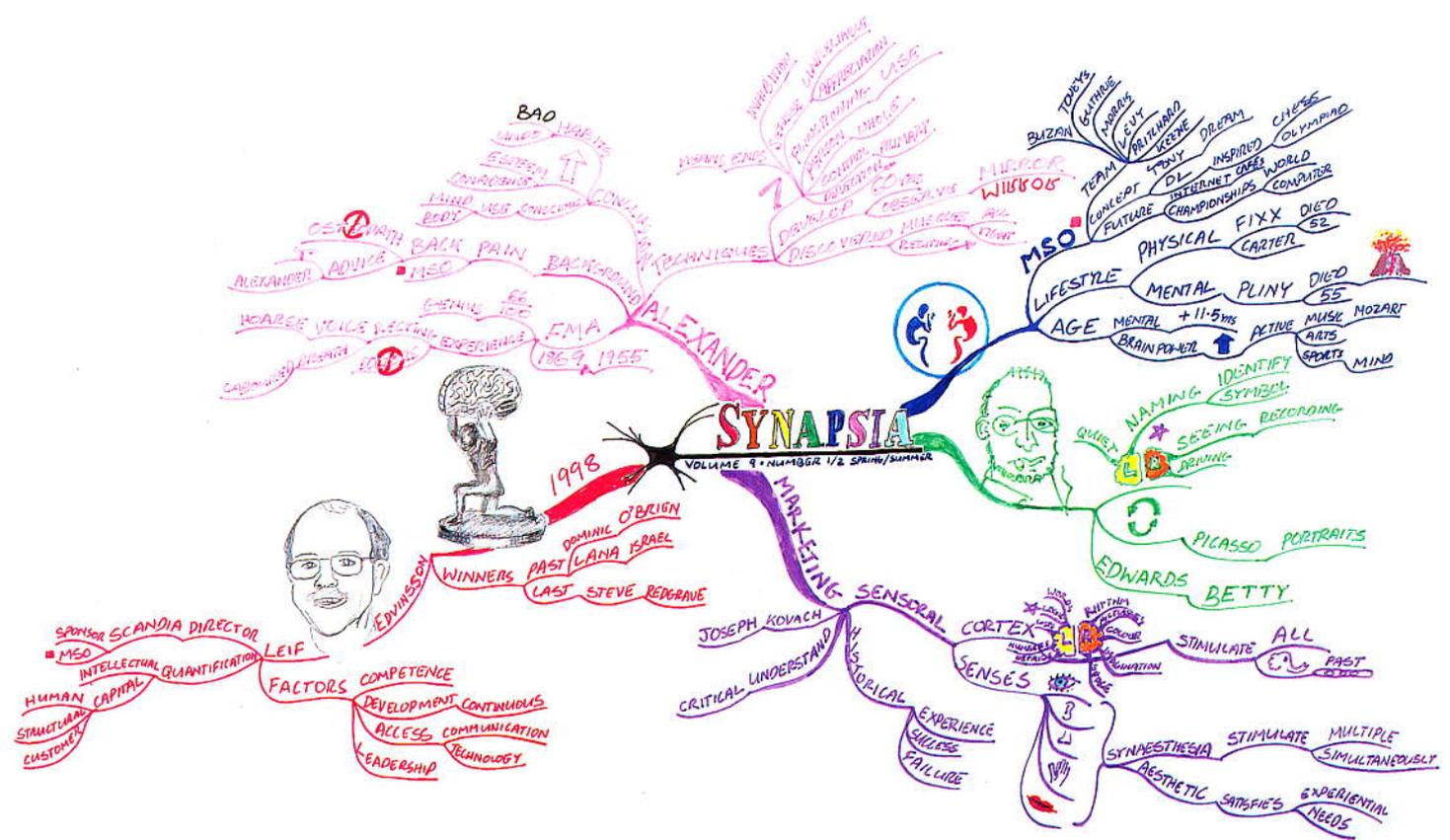
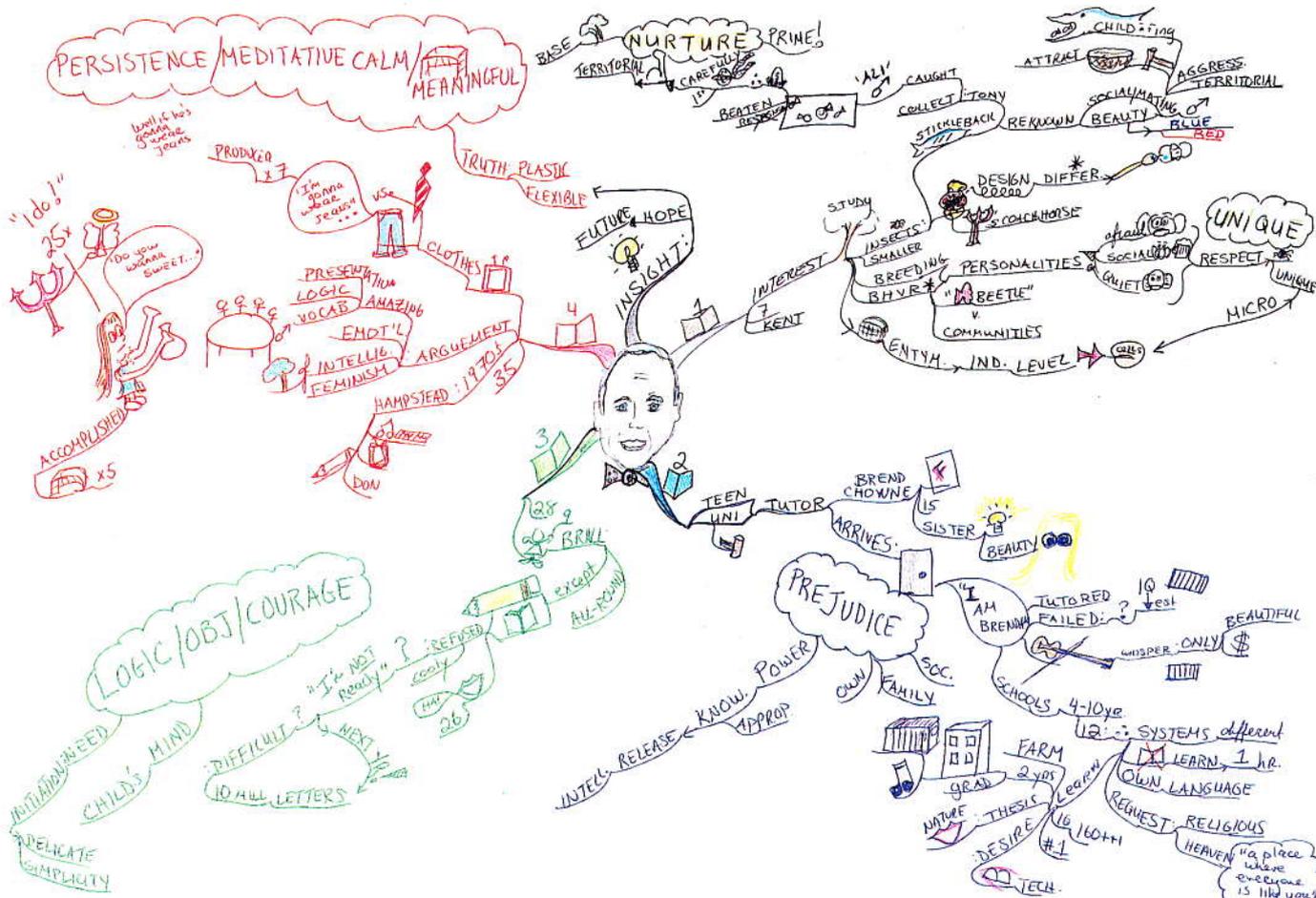
The Manned Space Program started in 1958 and in 1959 John Glenn was selected to be one of the first seven astronauts in the U.S. space program's project Mercury. Three years later, he made history as the first American to orbit the earth, completing three orbits during a five-hour flight in the tiny space capsule known as Friendship 7. For this feat, he was awarded the Space Congressional Medal of Honor and won the hearts of the American people. Although he wanted to remain an active astronaut, President John Kennedy considered Glenn too valuable a national hero to a country engulfed in the Cold War to risk his life in further space flights. John Glenn resigned from the Manned Spacecraft Center in 1964. However, in 1998, at the age of 77, he returned to space aboard the Shuttle Discovery.

John Glenn is an American icon. He represents the 'can-do' spirit of the United States that sees an obstacle and won't rest until it is overcome. He is a risk-taker who craves the opportunity to explore the unknown. Yet at the same time, John Glenn is a modest and deeply religious man. As adoring crowds greeted him along parade routes in Washington and New York in 1964, Glenn humbly thanked the 20,000 people directly involved in the mission – the launching crews, the men in the recovery fleet, the technicians standing by at tracking stations all around the world, and all of the Mercury group at Cape Canaveral (now Cape Kennedy). He said that he was overwhelmed by the outburst of national pride. Like a hero from a Frank Capra film, John Glenn is the type of champion whom Americans love most, the ordinary man who accomplishes great things through hard work, strength of character, and a love of risk.

Although I wasn't yet born when John Glenn made his historic orbit around the earth, he did have a positive influence on my own life. As a schoolgirl, I heard news commentators recall the tales of his heroic mission during live broadcasts of the Apollo launches. Teachers invoked his name to persuade me and my classmates to study science and math. We took pride in his courage to explore the unknown and dreamed of our own trips through outer space. We looked forward with great excitement to learning all we could about the New Frontier.

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy, I am proud to accept this award for Sen. Glenn. Thank you.







Daniel Philips recalls the inspirational qualities of Ted Hughes

Dear Lady Tovey,

The sad news of Ted Hughes' passing has prompted this letter to *Synapsia*. I have noticed Ted's contributions to the various efforts of the Brain Club, mental competitions and the journal. Ted inspired me tremendously and taught me some of the value of poetry. *Synapsia* also teaches the value of poetry both through examples and implications. I want to remember Ted in part by making some lyric elements explicit to readers who have not had the opportunity to learn from someone as poetically gifted or knowledgeable as he.

By a rare opportunity I studied for three weeks with a group of brain coaches including Tony Buzan, Vanda North, Michael Gelb, Raymond Keene and several other notables. Their combined efforts would have been enough to supercharge anyone. However, you can lead a horse to water but you cannot make him think, to turn the phrase. The brain coaches professed that a large part of their goal was not to inspire students to just material gain or advanced position,

but to lead richer lives. I understood their sincerity but could not understand how they would get us there. So I settled in to learn what I knew how to learn – how to achieve what I wanted, only faster. Ted was the catalyst for a completely new experience. His inspiration prompted me to write some poetry, something that even all of Vanda's encouragement may not have produced. After rereading the verses over a few days I saw how a poem could have multiple meanings, some hidden from even the author. That was a very surprising experience and a fundamental element of good poetry. It led to my understanding of another fundamental element of poetry – it is similar to all arts because they all contain poetic components. That reaction opened the door to my new enjoyment of the arts in general as I now picture music, read paintings and see poems from new perspectives.

Therefore I support *Synapsia's* efforts to include poetry as one kind of mental exercise. A tool that connects many disparate topics and enhances meaning simultaneously should have a regular place in a brain journal. People who use this tool will want to read faster and remember more. Scientific, artistic, religious or whatever, each experience will add something and increase the value of all. For example, one Shakespearean analyst says she could not understand his sonnets until she memorised all 154 of them. Now I know what she is talking about and can see how to accomplish such a feat. Even better, the new skills have helped me express these interesting ideas to my family and friends and inspire them the same way. With each iteration of discovery and discussion, we learn more the true value of poetry. Thank you, Ted.

Sincerely, Daniel L. Phillips, Danville, CA

HOW I WILL REMEMBER YOU

*After a short time we stopped talking.
You stopped talking. I finished a drink.
Six hours had passed. As they streamed through
The night outside the Schloss, you described
Ancient events, relived poets, revealed mysteries,
Completed associations.
The stream faded, links dissolved into darkness.
You saw across the Rhine your muse.
Over the pain she sang to you, your Lorelei.
Now angel of mercy, she fled the New World, left
Land's End, forgot her sorrow for Lycidas
To sing to you.
Miles away, on a hill over the Rhine that night.*

14 November 1998

THE MIND SPORTS MILLION

A New Partnership is Born

Synapsia is delighted to announce the commencement of a partnership between Mind Sports Olympiad Ltd and a group of Swedish investors. This one million pound deal was signed at the Compleat Angler Hotel in Marlow on Thursday 20 May 1999.

This new venture will launch the Mind Sports Olympiad on a vastly expanded

trajectory. The main picture sees Lord Hardinge, Chairman of Mind Sports Olympiad Ltd, Tony Buzan, President of the Mind Sports Council and Roger Holtback, the leading light in the team of Swedish investors, signing the agreement for the joint venture at the Compleat Angler Hotel in Marlow.





Above: Standing (from left): Kent Stenstrom, Claes Kinell, Annette Keene, Kristian Dahl, Raymond Keene, Vanda North, Sir Brian Tovey, Lady Mary Tovey, Jens Ove Nilsson, Frederik Ramberg and Lesley Bias.

Below: Crossword solution from previous issue

1	S	U	R	F	S		4	A	S	5	S	I	S	T	A	N	T	8
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THE SECOND MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

The second annual Mind Sports Olympiad took place in London at the Novotel Hotel, Hammersmith on August 24-30 last year. Raymond Keene and Chris Dickson report.

Bigger and Better

The 1998 Mind Sports Olympiad was both bigger and better than its predecessor. More than 2,200 entries were taken from a truly international field of competitors from 50 different countries in a wide range of events. Although there were monetary and material awards on offer, including Concorde flights, bottles of champagne, crystal decanters and learned tomes on thinking and the brain, the most cherished awards in the Olympiad were the gold, silver and bronze medals, awarded for superlative achievement in each category. The youngest competitor was just five years old, while the oldest was 77, and two brothers, George and Demis Hassabis, proved

themselves the most versatile mentathletes overall by capturing over 20 different medals between them.

Amongst the disciplines in contention were draughts, memory skills, speed reading, IQ, creativity, the finals of *The Times* Crossword Championship and, of course, the various forms of chess: Japanese (Shogi), Chinese (Xiangqi) and international (normal chess). It was interesting to see that the world champion in Chinese chess graced the event, whilst former world champions in 10x10 draughts, such as Guntis Valneris of Latvia, and the reigning world champion in 8x8 draughts, Ron King of Barbados, were also present and prominent in the medal tallies.

In the past, it has been my understanding that players in the different types of draughts tended to maintain a strict segregation, but the festival atmosphere of the Mind Sports Olympiad seemed to encourage crossovers, with 8x8 specialists picking up medals in the 10x10 version and vice-versa.

Chris Dickson adds:

Some of the biggest successes of this year's Mind Sports Olympiad were in less well-known games.

This year's Entropy tournament was twice the size of last year's event, while the Magic: The Gathering event on Saturday took up a full quarter of the vast downstairs hall with representatives of manufacturers Wizards of the Coast eager to demonstrate their game to newcomers. Another striking success was the first World Amateur Poker Championship, which was played for plastic chips rather than large sums of cash. This tournament attracted tables full of players every day and the eventual silver medallist was the



well-known games designer Reiner Knizia. It is somewhat ironic that, of all the games he could have chosen to play, Reiner elected for the distinctly traditional game of poker.

Clean Play

One strange story was that of Southampton's Josef Kollar, the reigning World Cluedo and Scottish Monopoly Champion. At the MSO Josef made an assault on the World Rummikub title, playing in his preferred state – naked in a deep, warm bath! Despite the provision of a foaming bath, Josef did not win the championship.

The Ukrainian ladies' chess team (comprising two Women Grandmasters and a smattering of International Masters) took part in a number of chess events. They scooped up a handful of medals but were narrowly pipped at the post in the main chess event by a trio of English GMs, Stuart Conquest, James Plaskett and Aaron Summerscale.

They Just can't get Enough

Possibly the most interesting event was the Pentamind, which is based on the familiar Pentathlon tournament event from the Olympics. Pentamind is, in effect, the game of games; competitors who

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

'What a concept. What an event!! The brains behind this remarkable event have to be congratulated on creating a work of sheer genius.'

British Chess Federation Newsletter

'The Olympics of the next Millennium is Mind Sports.'

Straits Times, Singapore

'It is conceivable that, within three years, preliminary competition in many sports will take place over the Internet. This alone will make the Mind Sports Olympiad the world's largest competitive event.'

South China Morning Post

'Nowadays companies are increasingly aware of their intellectual assets which – though they may not register on the balance sheet – enhance competitiveness. The ancient Chinese game of Go is said to be analogous to business management. Merchant banks are quick to employ chess masters, while contestants who compete to compile computer programmes against the clock have obvious commercial relevance.'

The Times

'Mental athletes tone their bodies to keep their minds in shape.'

The Times

'Olympians put Mind over Body.'

The Daily Telegraph

'The biggest games fest ever to hit these (or perhaps any other) shores. The Mind Sports Olympiad – a great celebration of the power of the human mind.'

The Independent

'Is chess more of a challenge than backgammon? Does bridge require more brainpower than poker? Which should be considered the ultimate Mind Game? Debate will hit new peaks at the Mind Sports Olympiad.'

The Financial Times

'In London the elite memory artists measured up against each other. It was not talent but hard training the World Champion had to thank for his title.'

Der Spiegel



participated in five or more events had their best five results pooled and the person with the largest total was declared Pentamind champion. A maximum 100 points could be awarded for each event, so that a gold medal would score 100 and last place 0 points, and the best five scores added together to provide a total out of 500. The eventual Pentamind gold medallist was England's Demis Hassabis, who I encountered playing Mastermind and Entropy simultaneously (and doing rather well at both, too).

Demis will be a familiar name to computer game players, as he is responsible for the best-selling *Theme Park*, which he wrote himself at 16 before he went to university. Nowadays he is managing director of his own software firm, Elixir Studos. Despite his genius (and I use the word advisedly, having been exposed to sundry World Champions), he is extremely approachable and friendly with none of the ego that you might expect. People talk of meeting Garry Kasparov as being like putting your hand into the electricity socket of your house and having your lights turned on; there's much the same in a conversation with Demis.

As for me, I was there to participate in the Puzzle Design event (pleasingly, picking up a bronze medal) and the Entropy tournament; to learn the rules to as many unfamiliar games as I could; and to run the Settlers of Catan card game event (which

Competitors in action from the Mind Sports Olympiad, playing chess (above) and owari (right).



was won with a 100% record by a certain Mr D. Hassabis, despite the fact that he had only played it once before in his life!). MSO director Raymond Keene outed himself as a *Star Trek* fan while watching my event, correctly identifying Catan as a planet from *Trek*. The tournament itself went smoothly; plenty of players expressed an interest in taking part in an event based on the board game version of *Settlers of Catan* and I know that other *Settlers* events in this country have likewise proved popular. Hopefully, we might be able to organise a *Settlers* board game event at the 1999 Mind Sports Olympiad. The Hare and Tortoise event I won myself last year wasn't repeated this year, so I suppose that, in a sense, I remain Champion by default.

One of the biggest joys of the whole event, however, is just meeting so many interesting people with a common interest in games; it was a great way of meeting the big names of the mind sports world. The Mind Sports Olympiad will hopefully be a major catalyst in disseminating information about new games to new players in future years. It's a great place for gaming competition in general and fulfils its goals admirably.

This year's event will take place at Kensington Olympia from August 21-29. Such is the popularity of the weekend events that the Olympiad is being extended to run over two weekends. Can you afford to miss it?



All cultures were represented at the Mind Sports Olympiad with many different games from around the world being played including draughts (above) and Japanese chess (left).



Mind Sports Olympiad 1998

Roll of Honour

ABALONE WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Vojtěch Hrabal 16/16
Silver: Marc Tastet 13/16
Bronze: Ian Turner 11/16

BACKGAMMON FOR BEGINNERS

Gold: Campbell Gordon 5/5
Silver: Akerö Maria 4/5
Bronze: Summerell Ray 4/5

BACKGAMMON CH'SHIP GOLD TOURNAMENT

Gold: Brian Lever
Silver: Mahmoud Jahanbani
Bronze: Steve Rimmer

BACKGAMMON CH'SHIP SILVER TOURNAMENT

Silver: John Kwee
Bronze: Peter Murrell

BACKGAMMON CH'SHIP BRONZE TOURNAMENT

Bronze: John Broomfield

BACKGAMMON WEEKEND EVENT

Gold: Geoff Oliver
Silver: John Clark
Bronze: Mahmoud Jahanbani

BRIDGE – MINI-BRIDGE 25/8/98 (PAIRS)

Gold: Ned Paul/Etienne Nicaise 32 points
Silver: Dario DiTofoli/Demis Hassabis 30 points
Bronze: Jane Rees-Davis/Mary Ann Bennett 25 points

BRIDGE – MINI-BRIDGE 26/8/98 (INDIVIDUAL)

Gold: Herbert Durkin 35 points
Silver: Phil Marson 26 points
Bronze: Jane Rees Davies 22 points

BRIDGE – MINI-BRIDGE 27/8/98 (INDIVIDUAL)

Gold: Etienne Nicaise
Silver: Phil Marson
Bronze: Norbert Schafer

BRIDGE – MIXED PAIRS

Gold: Marion Day/David Green 64.06%
Silver: Michael Crosby/Margaret Rosby 60.67%
Bronze: Piers Shepperson/Nobuleo Matsumura 57.32%

BRIDGE – MULTIPLE TEAMS OF FOUR

Gold: Mike Fletcher, Graham Horscroft, Andrew MacAlister, Steve Dannell/Mike Walsh 91 IMPs
Silver: Margaret Courtney, Michael Courtney, Ian Handley, Asad Salam 90 IMPs
Bronze: Byron Crittenden, John Durden, Ian Fogg, Jim Bochsler 19 IMPs

BRIDGE – PAIRS CH'SHIP

Gold: John Young/Chris Jagger 61.38%
Silver: Ron Stich/Laurence Manning 55.29%
Bronze: John Durden/Byron Crittenden 55.13%

BRIDGE – OPEN PAIRS

Gold: Paul Mendleson/Peter Hardyent 61.01%
Silver: Brian Glubok/Espen Erichsen 60.71%
Bronze: Mike Gold/David Higginson 56.85%

BRIDGE – NOVICES' PAIRS

Gold: Graham Walker/Peter Walker 57.50%
Silver: Joyce Swerski/Lucy Bloomfield 56.25%
Bronze: Carlo Mazzotti/Bevan Maggi 55.00%

BRIDGE – LADIES' PAIRS

Gold: Su Burn/Sheena Haytack 49.22%
Silver: Rina van Tol/Margaret Courtney 48.94%
Bronze: Judi Berzins/Mona Eldridge 46.27%

BRIDGE – MENS' PAIRS

Gold: Ting To/Bob Rowlands 67.15%
Silver: Byron Crittenden/John Durden 62.72%
Bronze: Andrew Robson/Paul Mendelson 61.19%

BRIDGE – SWISS PAIRS

Gold: Bill Thurl/Francis Eddleston 96 VPs
Silver: Martin Garvey/Chris Beanland 81 VPs
Bronze: Su Burn/Steve Eginton 78 VPs

BRIDGE – SWISS TEAMS OF FOUR

Gold: Geoff Nicholas, Debbie Roberts, Mike Webley, Ernest Schlesinger
Silver: Steve Eginton, Jean Johnson, Nick Economou, Frank Wharton
Bronze: Neil Van Luven, Robert Eaton, Andrew Sobell, Asad Salam

CHESS – QUICKPLAY TOURNAMENT

Overall Results
Gold: GM Stuart Conquest 13/15
Silver: GM James Plaskett 12/15
Bronze: GM Aaron Summerscale 12/15

CHESS – QUICKPLAY TOURNAMENT

Junior Results
Gold: Matthew Broomfield 9/15
Silver: Rosalind Kieran 9/15
Bronze: Kumardip Chakaburty 8½/15

CHESS – FIRST EVENING TOURNAMENT

Overall Results
Gold: Matthew Broomfield 5½/6
Silver: Tim Hebbes 5/6
Bronze: David Spence 4½/6

CHESS – FIRST EVENING TOURNAMENT

Junior Results
Gold: Matthew Broomfield 5½/6
Silver: Tim Hebbes 5/6
Bronze: Thomas Dougherty 4½/6

CHESS – SECOND EVENING TOURNAMENT

Overall Results
Gold: Ruth Sheldon 6/6
Silver: Jon S. Friedland 5/6
Bronze: Milan Petras 5/6

CHESS – SECOND EVENING TOURNAMENT

Junior Results
Gold: Kumardip Chakraborty 4/6
Silver: Shanker Menon 4/6
Bronze: Matthew Broomfield 4/6

CHESS – SATURDAY 10-MINUTE TOURNAMENT

Gold: Mark Hebden 6/6
Silver: Thorsten Cmiel 5/6
Bronze: Jon S. Friedland 5/6

CHESS – SUNDAY 10-MINUTE TOURNAMENT

Overall Results
Gold: Richard Pert 5½/6
Silver: Michael Basman 5/6
Bronze: Thorsten Cmiel 5/6

CHESS – SUNDAY 10-MINUTE TOURNAMENT

Junior Results
Gold: Richard Pert 5½/6
Silver: Kumardip Chakraborty 5/6
Bronze: Melanie Buckley 4½/6

CHESS – SATURDAY 5-MINUTE TOURNAMENT

Overall Results
Gold: Larry Kaufman 9½/10
Silver: Mark Hebden 8/10
Bronze: Thomas Hinks-Edwards 7½/10

CHESS – SATURDAY 5-MINUTE TOURNAMENT

Junior Results
Gold: Gawain Jones 7/10
Silver: Melanie Buckley 6½/10
Bronze: Rosalind Kieran 6½/10

CHESS – SUNDAY 5-MINUTE TOURNAMENT

Overall Results
Gold: Inna Yanovska 9½/10
Silver: Alex Chernaiev 9/10
Bronze: Mark Hebden 7½/10

CHESS – SUNDAY 5-MINUTE TOURNAMENT

Junior Results
Gold: Richard Pert 7/10
Silver: Nick Frost 6½/10
Bronze: Kumardip Chakraborty 6½/10

CHESS PROBLEM-SOLVING

Overall Results
Gold: Michael McDowell 70 points

Silver: Stephen Emmerson 31 points
Bronze: Brian Stephenson 31 points

CHESS PROBLEM-SOLVING**Junior Results**

Gold: Tim Hebbes 19 points
Silver: Kumardip Chakraborty 16 points
Bronze: Ezra Lutton 15 points

CHINESE CHESS OLYMPIAD CH'SHIP**Weekday event**

Gold: Liu Da Hua 15/18
Silver: Hu Ming 15/18
Bronze: Dang Thanh Trung 14/18

CHINESE CHESS EUROPEAN CH'SHIP**Weekend event**

Gold: Woo Wei Cheung 6/7
Silver: Chen Fa Zuo 5½/7
Bronze: Chen Te Chao 5/7

CONTINUO WORLD CH'SHIP**Overall Results**

Gold: Demis Hassabis
Silver: Dario DiToffoli
Bronze: Victoria Westnedge

CONTINUO WORLD CH'SHIP**Junior Results**

Gold: Victoria Westnedge
Silver: George Hassabis
Bronze: Ezra Lutton

CREATIVE THINKING WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Bruce Birchall 86 points
Silver: David J. Bodycombe 86 points
Bronze: Lana Israel 85 points

CRIBBAGE

Gold: Guy Plowman
Silver: Kenneth Wilshire
Bronze: Richard Brand

'THE TIMES' CROSSWORD PUZZLE CH'SHIP

Champion: Mr. Sutherland (Newton Mearns, Glasgow)

DECAMENTATHLON WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Paul Smith 612½/1000
Silver: Keith Loveys 601/1000
Bronze: Demis Hassabis 575½/1000

DRAUGHTS FOR BEGINNERS – 8x8

Gold: Raivis Paegle 9 points
Silver: T. Niccoli 9 points
Bronze: Demis Hassabis 8 points

DRAUGHTS ENGLISH FREESTYLE CH'SHIP – 8x8

Gold: Ron King 14/16
Silver: Pat McCarthy 11/16
Bronze: Raivis Paegle 11/16

DRAUGHTS CH'SHIP – 10x10

Gold: Guntis Valneris 19/22
Silver: Vladimir Bedinovs 16/22
Bronze: Raivis Paegle 15/22

DRAUGHTS SATURDAY TOURNAMENT – 8x8

Gold: Ron King 12/12
Silver: Con McCarrick 8/12

Bronze: Hugh Davies 8/12

DRAUGHTS SUNDAY TOURNAMENT – 8x8

Gold: Ron King 11/12
Silver: Pat McCarthy 10/12
Bronze: Terry Thomas 7/12

DRAUGHTS SATURDAY 10-MINUTE TOURNAMENT – 10x10

Gold: Guntis Valneris 14/14
Silver: Raivis Paegle 11/14
Bronze: Vladimir Bedinovs 9/14

DRAUGHTS SUNDAY 10-MINUTE TOURNAMENT – 10x10

Gold: Guntis Valneris 13/14
Silver: Kelvin Andell 13/14
Bronze: Vladimir Bedinovs 9/14

ENTROPY WORLD CH'SHIP**Overall Results**

Gold: Peter Horlock 5/6
Silver: Paul Smith 5/6
Bronze: David Pearce 5/6

ENTROPY WORLD CH'SHIP**Junior Results**

Gold: George Hassabis 4/6
Silver: Adam Swersky 2½/6
Bronze: Tim Hebbes 2½/6

GO CH'SHIP – 19x19

Gold: Shutai Zhang 5/5
Silver: Shoichi Sakagi 4/5
Bronze: Vladimir Danek 3/5

GO WEEKEND EVENT – 19x19

Gold: Migaku Hayashi 5/5
Silver: Shoichi Sakagi 4/5
Bronze: Vladimir Danek 4/5

GO – 13x13

Gold: Vladimir Danek 9/13
Silver: Gerhard Stetter 8/13
Bronze: Reiko Monna 7/13

GO – 9x9**Overall Results**

Gold: Mikagu Hayashi 6/7
Silver: Des Cann 6/7
Bronze: Francis Roads 5/7

GO – 9x9**Junior Results**

Gold: Ezra Lutton 3/7
Silver: James Heppell 3/7
Bronze: Josiah Lutton 1/7

HEXDAME WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Leo Springer 16/20
Silver: George Miller 12/20
Bronze: David Kotim 12/20

INTELLIGENCE WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Angus Walker 321/388
Silver: Martin Isaac 287/388
Bronze: Ben Pridmore 268/388

INTELLIGENCE – SATURDAY EVENT**Overall Results**

Gold: Daniel Holloway 81/89
Silver: Paul Smith 81/89
Bronze: Iain Gunn 79/89

INTELLIGENCE – SATURDAY EVENT**Junior Results**

Gold: Iain Gunn 79/89
Silver: Christopher Dixon 62/89
Bronze: Natalie Eskinazi 61/89

JAPANESE CHESS (SHOGI) – OLYMPIAD CH'SHIP

Gold: Larry Kaufman 10/11
Silver: Manabu Terao 9/11
Bronze: Eric Cheymol 8/11

JAPANESE CHESS (SHOGI) – SATURDAY 10-MINUTE EVENT

Gold: Demis Hassabis 4/4
Silver: Hideki Tanaka 3/4
Bronze: Fassil Bekele 2/4

LINES OF ACTION – WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Hartmut Thordsen 6/7
Silver: Ragnar Wikman 5/7
Bronze: Marc Tastet 5/7

LEARN AND PLAY NEW GAMES**'Lift-Off' Tournament**

Gold: Dario DiToffoli 5/5
Silver: David Sedgwick 4/5
Bronze: Josef Kollar 4/5

MAGIC: THE GATHERING**Standard Tournament – Overall Results**

Gold: John Ormerod
Silver: Oliver Schneider
Bronze: Andrew Barreto

MAGIC: THE GATHERING**Standard Tournament – Junior Results**

Gold: Andre Barreto
Silver: Daniel Caps
Bronze: Chris Caps

MAGIC: THE GATHERING**Limited Tournament – Overall Results**

Gold: David Stewart
Silver: Sam Waller
Bronze: Dave Fry

MAGIC: THE GATHERING**Limited Tournament – Junior Results**

Gold: Sam Waller
Silver: David Gunn
Bronze: Ben Haytack

MASTERMIND**Overall Results**

Gold: Shanker Menon 9½/13
Silver: Marc Tastet 9/13
Bronze: Dario de Toffoli 8/13

MASTERMIND**Junior Results**

Gold: Shanker Menon 9½/13
Silver: Billy Lo 7/13
Bronze: George Hassabis 6/13

MEMORY SKILLS WORLD CH'SHIP**Overall Results**

Gold: Andi Bell 700 points
Silver: Michael Tipper 500 points
Bronze: Gunter Karsten 480 points

MEMORY SKILLS WORLD CH'SHIP**Female Results**

Gold: Sue Whiting 340 points
 Silver: Tatiana Cooley 320 points
 Bronze: Manuela Meurer 310 points

MEMORY SKILLS WORLD CH'SHIP**Junior Results**

Gold: David Seidel 330 points
 Silver: Christiane Stenger 300 points

MENTAL CALCULATIONS WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Robert Fountain 10,192 pts.
 Silver: George Lane 10,142 pts.
 Bronze: Greg Steven 9,987 pts.

MIND-MAPPING WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Elaine Colliar 254/300
 Silver: Lana Israel 248/300
 Bronze: Philip Chambers 235/300

OTHELLO – SPEED CH'SHIP

Gold: Bintsu Andriani
 Silver: Graham Brightwell
 Bronze: Benny Shifman

OTHELLO WEEKDAY CH'SHIP**Overall Results**

Gold: Makoto Suekini 12½/13
 Silver: Graham Brightwell 10½/13
 Bronze: Benny Schifman 10/13

OTHELLO WEEKDAY CH'SHIP**Junior Results**

Gold: Benny Shifman 10/13
 Silver: Josiah Lutton 3/13
 Bronze: Rajit Gholap 1/13

OTHELLO EUROPEAN CH'SHIP**Open Section**

Gold: Makoto Suekini 8/8
 Silver: Mark Tastet 7/8
 Bronze: Graham Brightwell 6/8

OTHELLO EUROPEAN CH'SHIP**Closed Section**

Champion: Graham Brightwell 2/3 in final
 Runner-up: Benyamin Schifman 1/3 in final

OWARI WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Trevor Simon
 Silver: Kambui Charles
 Bronze: Pumpkin Lewis

OWARI JUNIOR WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Elle Davis 8/9
 Silver: Chemara Pearl 7/9
 Bronze: Wayne Bonti 6/9

PENTAMIND WORLD CH'SHIP**Overall Results**

Gold: Demis Hassabis 479/500
 Silver: Paul Smith 471/500
 Bronze: Dario Di Toffoli 447/500

PENTAMIND WORLD CH'SHIP**Junior Results**

Gold: George Hassabis 364/500
 Silver: Ezra Lutton 215/500
 Bronze: Adam Swersky 169/500

POKER – WORLD AMATEUR POKER CH'SHIP**5-Card Draw Tournament,**

Gold: Michael Kelly Winner
 Silver: Gary Lee
 Bronze: Andrew Mennear

POKER – WORLD AMATEUR POKER CH'SHIP**7-Card Stud Tournament,**

Gold: Thorsten Cmiel Winner
 Silver: John Clark
 Bronze: Alexander Baron

POKER – WORLD AMATEUR POKER CH'SHIP**6-Card Lowball Tournament,**

Gold: Reiner Knizia Winner
 Silver: George Miller
 Bronze: Michael Kelly

POKER – WORLD AMATEUR POKER CH'SHIP**Omaha Tournament**

Gold: Gary Lee Winner
 Silver: Dario de Toffoli
 Bronze: Reiner Knizia

POKER – WORLD AMATEUR POKER CH'SHIP**Texas Hold 'Em Tournament**

Gold: Mick Haytack Winner
 Silver: Thorsten Cmiel
 Bronze: Keith Loveys

POKER – WORLD AMATEUR POKER CH'SHIP**Overall Results**

Gold: Gary Lee Winner
 Silver: Reiner Knizia
 Bronze: Thorsten Cmiel

PUB QUIZ**Team Championship**

Gold: Kevin Ashman, Andrew Curtis, Gavin Fuller, Trevor Montague
 Silver: Paul Hennessy, Larry Whitehurst, Jeremy Edge, Thomas Dineen
 Bronze: Robert Kingdom, Dean Taylor, Ronnie Wilson, Michael Booth

PUB QUIZ**Individual Championship**

Gold: Kevin Ashman
 Silver: Mike Walsh
 Bronze: Phil Anderson



Mind Sports enable everybody to compete on equal terms, regardless of age, race or creed.

PUZZLE DESIGN

Gold: Hiroshi Yamamoto
 Silver: David J. Bodycombe
 Bronze: Chris M. Dickson

PUZZLE SOLVING – MECHANICAL PUZZLES

Gold: Sjaak Griffioen
 Silver: Coen de Groot
 Bronze: Henry Rowett
 Puzzles for Mechanical Puzzles Solving Tournament provided by Kadon Enterprises

PUZZLE SOLVING – BRAINTEASERS

Gold: Paul Smith
 Silver: Coen de Groot
 Bronze: Bruce Birchall

RUMMIKUB

Overall Results
 Gold: Billy Lo 322 points
 Silver: Marc Tastet 225 points
 Bronze: Harri Bungay 196 points

RUMMIKUB

Junior Results
 Gold: Billy Lo 322 points
 Silver: Harri Bungay 196 points
 Bronze: Aysha Choudhary 151 points

SCRABBLE OLYMPIAD CH'SHIP

Overall Results
 Gold: Shanker Menon 12/15
 Silver: Patricia Pay 12/15
 Bronze: Sandie Simonis 11/15

SCRABBLE OLYMPIAD CH'SHIP

Junior Results
 Gold: Shanker Menon 12/15
 Silver: Purvi Shah 5½/15
 Bronze: Benny Schifman 5/15

SCRABBLE EVENING CH'SHIP

Gold: Femi Awowade 8/9
 Silver: Adebowale Ajose 6/9
 Bronze: Richard Evans 6/9

SCRABBLE WEEKEND CH'SHIP

Overall Results
 Gold: Femi Awowade 10/12
 Silver: Martin Thomas 9/12
 Bronze: Maria Thomson 9/12

SCRABBLE WEEKEND CH'SHIP

Junior Results
 Gold: Purvi Shah 7/12
 Silver: Rajit Gholap 2/12
 Bronze: Kenny Pang 1/12

SETTLERS OF CATAN CARD GAME

Gold: Demis Hassabis 5/5
 Silver: George Hassabis 4/5
 Bronze: David Gatherel 2/5

SKAT CH'SHIP – WEEKDAY

Gold: Norbert Schafer 4404 points
 Silver: John McLeod 4074 points
 Bronze: Manuela Meurer 4021 points

SPEED READING

Gold: Anne Jones 840 ewpm
 Silver: Lana Israel 461 ewpm
 Bronze: Riccardo Cordero 313 ewpm

SPREAD BET

Singles
 Gold: Marc Jerrard
 Silver: Thomas Dineen
 Bronze: Keith Loveys

SPREAD BET

Pairs
 Gold: Paul Hennessy/Jeremy Edge
 Silver: Marc Jerrard/Jonathan Mehdi

Bronze: Mike Walsh/Keith Loveys

STRATEGO WORLD CH'SHIP

Overall Results
 Gold: Luc Adriaansen 54/54
 Silver: Sander Rinzema 43/54
 Bronze: Erik van den Berg 42/54

STRATEGO WORLD CH'SHIP

Junior Results
 Gold: Frank Poppelaars 25/54
 Silver: Mark van der Linden 25/54
 Bronze: Luuk de Kanter 24/54

STRATEGO WORLD TEAM CH'SHIP

Gold: The Netherlands
 Silver: Belgium
 Bronze: Germany

TWIXT WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Klaus Hussmanns
 Silver: Hartmut Thordsen
 Bronze: Dario Di Toffoli

ZATRE WORLD CH'SHIP

Gold: Wolfgang Wickman
 Silver: Sigrid Lengler
 Bronze: Beat Küng



Lady Mary Tovey (left) presents prizes to the winners of the Mind Mapping competition. From left: Lana Israel (silver), Elaine Colliar (gold) and Philip Chambers (bronze).



MIND SPORTS: CHESS

Grandmaster Raymond Keene OBE

There have been some curious coincidences in chess when games have been duplicated. It sometimes happens that a grandmaster comes up with some important idea and wins a crushing game against a colleague, only for the theorists to discover afterwards that it had all been played by correspondence before. A case in point was a game between world champion Garry Kasparov and the British grandmaster John Nunn. When Nunn resigned, it turned out that he was still following the contours of a Scandinavian postal game.

White: Garry Kasparov; Black: John Nunn

Brussels 1986

Grünfeld Defence

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 c4 Bg7 4 g3 0-0 5 Bg2 c6

Varying from his habitual King's Indian Defence, Nunn opts for, what must have seemed to him, the relative security of the solid Neo-Grünfeld.

6 Nc3 d5

A natural alternative is 6 ... d6, which would have been Black's last chance to revert to the King's Indian Defence.

7 cxd5 cxd5 8 Ne5 e6 9 0-0 Nfd7 10 f4

Although this weakens White's pawn structure, firm support for the knight on e5 is the only way for White to aspire to any opening initiative in this symmetrical line.

10 ... Nxe5

Nunn tries to solve his problems by highly direct means, namely the prompt removal of White's outpost knight. The more sophisticated choice is 10 ... f6 to drive White's cavalry back.

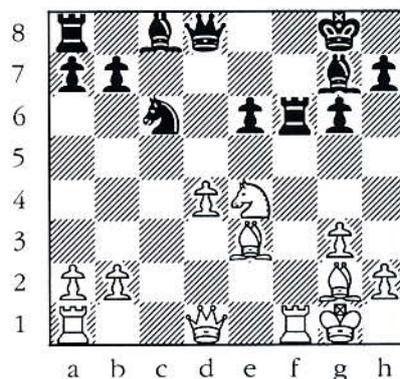
11 fxex5 Nc6 12 e4 dxe4 13 Be3 f5

Otherwise White has a dominating position if he can play ... Nxe4 without being disturbed.

14 exf6 Rxf6 15 Nxe4 (diagram 1)

Kasparov's innovation, which involves a typical pawn sacrifice for his hyperactive style. He thus improves on the game Sveshnikov - Mikhailchisin, Lvov 1983, which had continued with the undynamic 15 Rxf6 Bxf6 16 Ne2. However, unbe-

known to both Kasparov and Nunn this variation had already been tested in a Swedish correspondence game between Gunnar Hjort and Mats Andersson.



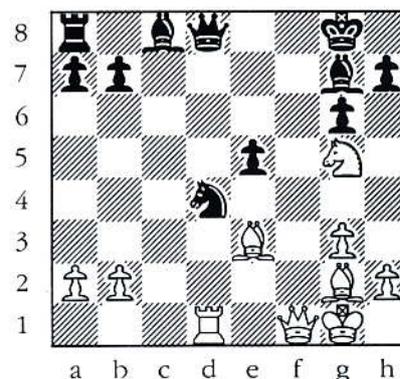
15 ... Rxf1 +

Or 15 ... Rf5 16 g4.

16 Qxf1 Nxd4

If 16 ... Bxd4 17 Bxd4 Qxd4+ 18 Kh1 when, with Black's dark squares on the kingside weakened by the removal of the defensive fianchettoed bishop, White has moves like Rd1 and Nf6+ in the air.

17 Rd1 e5 18 Ng5 (diagram 2)



Black resigns

A remarkable miniature. In the position where Nunn resigned Kasparov demonstrated the crushing variation 18 ... Qe7 19 Bd5+ Be6 20 Rxd4 exd4 21 Bxe6+ Kh8 22 Nf7+ Kg8 23 Nd8+ Kh8 24 Bg5 Qb4 25 Nf7+ Kg8 26 Ne5+ Kh8 27 Nxf6+ followed by Qh3. In fact that was exactly how the game Hjort - Andersson had concluded! It is bad enough to lose, but to lose a game that has been played before is exceedingly galling.

**Raymond Keene,
chess correspondent
of The Times, reports
on a coincidence.**

MIND SPORTS: BRIDGE

Robert Sheehan

Women In Bridge

In the early days of Contract Bridge men and women played more or less as equals, often indeed as married couples: Ely and Jo Culbertson, Hal and Dorothy Sims were both leading pairs on the world stage in the 1930s. Somehow between then and now women became less skilled at the game than men and their status diminished. Nowadays the truth is that at the very top women are outplayed by men. Feminists may not like this but would not be able to argue with the facts.

Of course, there are exceptions. In the last Macallan International Pairs event (held in London every January), the second and third-placed pairs in a field of sixteen, in which all the others were men, were Britain's Nicola Smith and Pat Davies and Germany's Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim. The American Dorothy Truscott has won a silver medal in a Bermuda Bowl (the Open World Championship) and a bronze medal in an Open World Pairs Olympiad ... but it was over thirty years ago. Few women nowadays even try to compete with the men.

The only woman to have represented Great Britain in an Open European Championship was Dimmie Fleming, in 1953. In recent history Sally Brock gave up her almost certain place on the British women's team (which in the 1980s had won two Women's World Championships with her as a member) in order to develop a partnership for Open competition. She represented Great Britain in a few EC Championships but never quite made the grade as far as the Europeans were concerned.

Why should this be? What is it about the game that prevents women from falling short of the very top level? I can think of several possible explanations.

The very fact that they have their own separate tournaments at international level holds them back. At more physical sports it is clear that women cannot compete on equal terms with men and eminently sensible that they should have their own schedule of competitions. At bridge

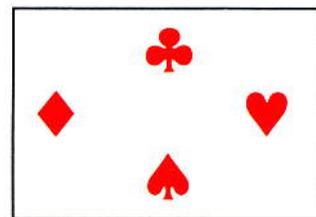
those women who might challenge the men generally prefer the greater chance of success that comes with playing amongst their own sex.

Improving with Age

Most physical sportsmen and women peak before they are thirty. This means that women can excel at their chosen discipline and later get married and have children. Bridge is a game where experience counts for more than youthful intellectual power. Players peak at around forty and can expect to continue at the top well into their fifties and beyond. Playing any game at the top and caring for small children do not combine well, particularly if the woman concerned also has to earn a living.

Some would say that women are much too sensible to take the game sufficiently seriously. After all, when compared to the 'real' stuff of life, such as relationships and the nurturing of the next generation, it is 'only a game'. Not a view that would be taken by any self-respecting competitive male player.

Interesting as all this speculation may be, it is not relevant to most people's perspective of the game. At club level women tend to exceed men both in numbers and ability. Although national bridge authorities worldwide spend a great deal of time and resources promoting bridge in schools and universities, the fact is that bridge comes into its own later in life. The complexity that makes it the 'king of card games' means it is very absorbing and once bitten by the bug people often want to spend most of their leisure time playing the game. Young people have many more important demands on their time: studies, careers, children etc. But when you are retired and have more time on your hands it is much easier to return to the game you learned as a youth than it is to learn from scratch. And there is hope for the older players – Boris Schapiro, bridge correspondent of the *Sunday Times*, has just won the World Seniors Championship (for players over 55) at the age of 89.



Robert Sheehan, Bridge correspondent of The Times, explores bridge demographics.

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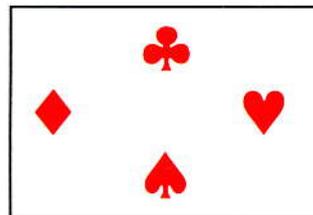
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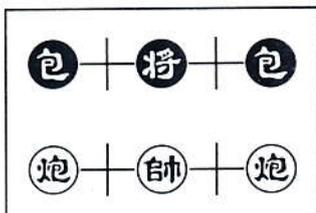
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Robert Sheehan, Bridge correspondent of The Times, explores bridge demographics.



MIND SPORTS: CHINESE CHESS

Raymond Keene OBE

Origins

There are many similarities between Chinese chess (xiangqi) and its western cousin and this certainly suggests a common origin. Although, historically, the Chinese have always maintained xiangqi was locally invented, the prevailing theory on the origin of chess before the 1970's (which was largely based on H.J.R.Murray's work) favoured the so-called 'Indian Connection'. However, since the 1970's, more and more weight has been given to the idea that China already had a version of chess before India.

There were mentions of the game 'xiangqi' in documents during the Warring States period (403-221 BC) and even earlier. Chinese historians generally agree that the modern version was reached sometime during the late Tang Dynasty (AD 618-906). This is supported by recent unearthing of ancient artefacts, with a xiangqi set identical to the modern set that dated back to the Song Dynasty. For a long period, xiangqi was snubbed by high officials, and the game of go was preferred by the higher classes. However, xiangqi, with its charms and characteristics, quickly became a game for the masses. From the Song Dynasty through the Qing Dynasty, the game began to be more accepted by officials, and numerous records were referenced in bureaucratic manuscripts and scholarly works.

During the infamous Cultural Revolution, xiangqi was banned, while outside China it prospered. In 1968, the first of seven Asian Team Tournaments (the first two cycles were called 'Southeast Asian XiangQi Championships') was held in Singapore, helping to unite south-east Asian nations/regions.

1980 marked another historical milestone, as China finally joined the Asian XiangQi Federation and entered international competition, at the First Asian Cup Tournament held in Macao. The Chinese players quickly showed their dominance, and wrapped up every title that they contested. Currently China is the only place which has a rating system. Grandmaster and master titles have been awarded to players since 1982 and a na-

tional rating list is compiled twice a year.

What the Future holds

Xiangqi is extremely popular in nations like Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, etc. Since it is the most popular board game of the world's highest populated nation, plus the large percentage of Chinese immigrants over the world, xiangqi could well be the most played board game in the world, even surpassing western chess.

Xiangqi has advantages over western chess as a spectator sport:

1. For the same number of men, xiangqi has a much larger board (90 points vs. 64 squares, which is over 40% larger), which means more open positions, i.e. more tactical actions.

2. It has a shorter time control (40 moves in 90 minutes at championship level), making it more appealing to the general audience.

There are, though, three reasons why xiangqi has not attained the worldwide popularity it deserves. First, it still suffers from political and bureaucratic influences that greatly hinder its international development. Though the recent political climate seems to have improved, no one is sure what the next round will bring.

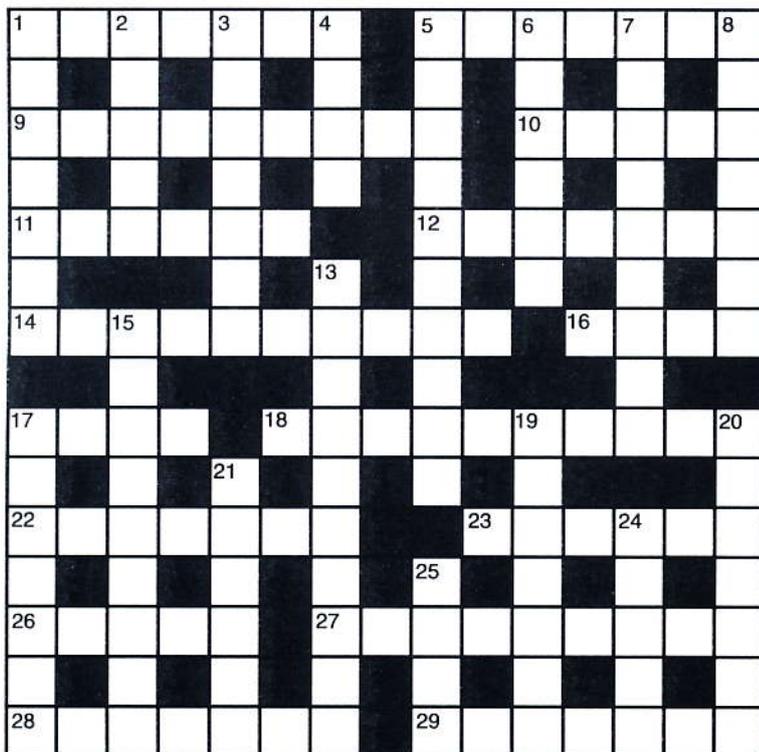
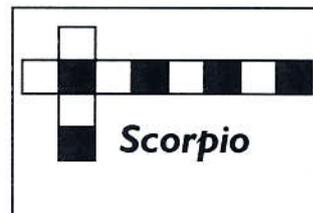
Second, there has been as yet no serious effort on a large scale basis to promote the game worldwide. As its name implies, the Asian XiangQi Federation is mainly for Asian regions. Its officials appear to be content with the status quo of having a team event and an individual tournament every other year among a dozen members, and award a few individual titles (not based on ratings) once in a while. The Chinese XiangQi Association, under whose auspices 95% of all XiangQi literature is published, has yet to come up with a decent textbook in other languages. This lack of 'transfer of knowledge' is – and will be – the major stumbling block for foreign developing regions.

Third, although in the past xiangqi has been played with pictorial disks, showing the pieces, it is now universally conducted by means of Chinese ideograms. This makes it problematic for Western players to recognise the pieces.

Raymond Keene explores the origins and the future of the Eastern cousin of chess.

MIND SPORTS: CROSSWORD

Richard Browne



ACROSS

- 1 As barnacles are – in masses, silent (7)
- 5 A cinema production short of vitality (7)
- 9 Breezy spirit is quite impractical (4-5)
- 10 For the troops, does he unnecessarily prolong sessions of religion? (5)
- 11 Long yarn spun to the queen (6)
- 12 Feature of Muslim town from long time back in such perfect condition (7)
- 14 For money, make debased version of *Mrs Warren's Profession* (10)
- 16 Popular performer, one of thousands appearing every evening (4)
- 17 Wild animal backs into the grass (4)
- 18 Get less vocal criticism for supermarket packaging (6-4)
- 22 Firm with error – it's a wild bloomer (7)
- 23 Cover that is stopping silly runs (6)
- 26 Don Giovanni, for example, works in Latin (5)
- 27 To Holmes, a criminal is hateful (9)
- 28 People return and finally execute little relative in vengeance (7)
- 29 One disarmed, perhaps, by theatrical skill (7)

DOWN

- 1 Seriously damage from drink, swallowing unfermented beer (5,2)
- 2 Seductive woman sounds warning (5)
- 3 Change the tone of one's speech (7)
- 4 Time to go up and change (4)
- 5 Allowing no correspondence, unlike this crossword? (10)
- 6 Add notice about pressure on writer (6)
- 7 Presiding officer fell, tread slipping inside (9)
- 8 Inventor of atomic pile changing position of carbon (7)
- 13 Restless over dates, showing signs of avarice (5,5)
- 15 Who managed to hold vicar up on tree in flood? (9)
- 17 Supplier of fur: shelf, we hear, has nothing on (7)
- 19 Blood tie to no-good royalty (7)
- 20 Go ahead, and quietly go back (7)
- 21 Permanently a provisional licence-holder on the roads (6)
- 24 Submarine named after tea, say? (1-4)
- 25 Soft food a requirement for old man (4)

The solution to the crossword from the previous issue is on page 19.

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